GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:439
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Guidelines on Deep Sea Fishing
Maragatham Smt. K.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE ???? ?? ???? ?????? ??????
be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the deep sea fishing guidelines mandate boats, that are above 15 meters overall length, engaged in near shore fishing just beyond the territorial waters of India, to obtain a letter of permission from the Government of India and voyage clearance from the Indian Coast Guard for each fishing voyage;
(b) if so the details thereof;
(c) whether the new guidelines not only restrict the open access of the country's fishermen in the Exclusive Economic Zone but also set a dangerous precedent of allowing foreign vessels of more than 15 meters overall length to compete with our fishermen for resources which need to be conserved for utilization by the country's fishermen;
(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of the country's fishermen; and
(e) whether the Government has received a representation from the State Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard, if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE:
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. As per the Guidelines for operation of Deep Sea Fishing Vessels in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) issued on 12th November, 2014 a Letter of Permission (LOP) is required from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India for operating any fishing vessel(s) of 15 meter overall length (OAL) and above or any resource specific vessel or any vessel fit for deep sea fishing for their operation in Indian EEZ beyond 12 nautical miles. The LOP holder DSFVs are required to comply all the conditions stipulated under the said Guidelines dated 12th November, 2014 which includes inspection of vessel(s) by nearest Coast Guard Authority before and after completion of each voyage.
(c) No, Madam. Any Indian citizen, Indian entrepreneur; Partnership Firm; Private Ltd. Company; Public Ltd. Company; Joint Venture Company (with at least 51% Indian equity), Corporation and registered Cooperative Society may apply for obtaining LOP for deep-sea fishing in the Indian EEZ beyond 12 nautical miles. Whereas, foreign vessels are not allowed to fish within the Exclusive Economic Zone of India.
(d) Does not arise.
(e) The State Government of Tamil Nadu vide its letter dated 03.5.2015 had raised its concerns on the Guidelines dated12th November, 2014. A Committee has been constituted on 28.7.2015 to suggest draft of the National Policy on Marine Fisheries and also to review the Guidelines for deep-sea fishing.
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